

What is claimed is:

1        1.     A device for removing and replacing a seal structure in a plumbing fixture,  
2 comprising:

3                a cylindrical, hollow external housing having upper and lower ends;

4                a cylindrical guide having upper and lower ends and designed to be removably  
5 disposed within the external housing such that the lower end of the guide does not extend  
6 beyond the lower end of the external housing in a resting position;

7                a cap removably attachable to the upper end of the cylindrical guide such that the  
8 cap extends beyond the upper end of the external housing in a resting position; and

9                a compression spring having upper and lower ends and disposed within the upper  
10 end of the external housing such that depression of the cap causes compression of the  
11 spring and causes the lower end of the cylindrical guide to extend beyond the lower end  
12 of the external housing.

1        2.     The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the lower end of the  
2 compression spring is held in place by an area of reduced internal diameter in the external  
3 housing.

1        3.     The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cylindrical guide includes a  
2 lip which interacts with an area of reduced internal diameter in the external housing to  
3 prevent the cylindrical guide from sliding past a predetermined location.

1        4.     The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cap is pressure fit to the  
2 upper end of the cylindrical guide.

1        5.     The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cap is threaded to the upper  
2 end of the cylindrical guide.

1           6.       The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing includes  
2   stationary grip handles.

1           7.       The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein the grip handles are formed  
2   integrally with the external housing.

1           8.       The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein the grip handles are curved to  
2   accept a user's fingers.

1           9.       The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2   and the cylindrical guide are formed from a water resistant material.

1           10.      The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2   and the cylindrical guide are formed from a waterproof material.

1           11.      The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2   and the cylindrical guide are formed from a material selected from the group consisting  
3   of plastics, composites and thermoplastics.

1           12.    A device for removing and replacing a seal structure in a plumbing fixture,  
2 comprising:

3           a cylindrical, hollow external housing having upper and lower ends and integral  
4   grip handles which are curved to accept a user's fingers;

5           a cylindrical guide having upper and lower ends and designed to be removably  
6   disposed within the external housing such that the lower end of the guide does not extend  
7   beyond the lower end of the external housing in a resting position, the cylindrical guide  
8   further including a lip which interacts with an area of reduced internal diameter in the  
9   external housing to prevent the cylindrical guide from sliding past a predetermined  
10   location;

11           a cap removably attachable to the upper end of the cylindrical guide such that the  
12   cap extends beyond the upper end of the external housing in a resting position; and

13           a compression spring having upper and lower ends and disposed within the upper  
14   end of the external housing and held in place by an area of reduced internal diameter in  
15   the external housing such that depression of the cap causes compression of the spring and  
16   causes the lower end of the cylindrical guide to extend beyond the lower end of the  
17   external housing.

1           13.    The device as set forth in claim 12 wherein the cap is pressure fit to the  
2   upper end of the cylindrical guide.

1           14.    The device as set forth in claim 12 wherein the cap is threaded to the  
2   upper end of the cylindrical guide.

1           15.    The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2   and the cylindrical guide are formed from a water resistant material.

1           16.    The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2    and the cylindrical guide are formed from a waterproof material.

1           17.    The device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the external housing, the cap  
2    and the cylindrical guide are formed from a material selected from the group consisting  
3    of plastics, composites and thermoplastics.